9

10

1

2

3

4

5



## **CLAIMS**

## What is claimed is:

## 1 1. A method comprising:

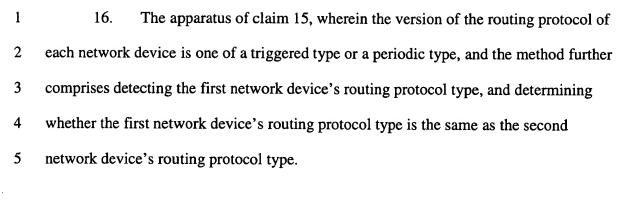
2 receiving a packet from a first network device to a second ne	network device
---	----------------

- 3 wherein the first and second network devices are connected to form a link, the first
- 4 network device and the second network device each having a version of a dynamic,
- 5 intradomain, distributed, flat, single path, distance vector routing protocol, the packet
- 6 identifying the first network device's routing protocol version;
- determining whether the first network device's routing protocol version is the same as the second network device's routing protocol version; and
  - configuring the link such that the routing protocol versions of the first and second network devices are the same.
  - 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the version of the routing protocol of each network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type, and the method further comprises detecting the first network device's routing protocol type, and determining whether the first network device's routing protocol type is the same as the second network device's routing protocol type.
- 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising configuring the link such that the
  routing protocol types of the first and second network devices are the same.



- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the routing protocol is Routing
- 2 Information Protocol (RIP).
- 1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the version of RIP is one of Version 1 or
- 2 Version 2.
- 1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the version of the RIP of each network device
- 2 is one of a triggered type or a periodic type.
- 1 7. The method of claim 5, further comprising configuring the link such that
- the RIP versions of the first and second network devices are both Version 2.
- 1 8. The method of claim 7 further comprising configuring the link such that
- 2 the RIP Version 2 on both of the first and second network devices is triggered.
- 1 9. A method comprising:
- 2 configuring a link including a first network device and a second network
- device, each network device including a dynamic, intradomain, distributed, flat, single
- 4 path, distance vector routing protocol having a version and a type, such that the routing
- 5 protocol versions of the first and second network devices are the same and the types of
- 6 the routing protocol versions are the same.
- 1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the routing protocol is Routing
- 2 Information Protocol (RIP).

1	11. The method of claim 10 wherein the version of the RIP is one of Version
2	1 or Version 2.
1	12. The method of claim 11 wherein the version of the RIP of each network
2	device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type.
1	13. The method of claim 11 further comprising configuring the link such that
2	the RIP on both of the first and second network devices is Version 2.
_	
1	14. The method of claim 13 further comprising configuring the link such that
2	the RIP Version 2 on both of the first and second network devices is triggered.
1	15 A
1	15. An apparatus comprising a machine accessible medium containing
2	instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform
3	operations comprising:
4	receiving a packet from a first network device to a second network device,
5	wherein the first and second network devices are connected to form a link, the first
6	network device and the second network device each having a version of a dynamic,
7	intradomain, distributed, flat, single path, distance vector routing protocol, the packet
8	identifying the first network device's routing protocol version,
9	determining whether the first network device's routing protocol version is the
10	same as the second network device's routing protocol version; and
11	configuring the link such that the routing protocol versions of the first and
12	second network devices are the same.



- 1 17. The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising configuring the link such 2 that the routing protocol types of the first and second network devices are the same.
- 18. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the routing protocol is Routing
  Information Protocol (RIP).
- 1 19. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the version of RIP is one of Version 1 2 or Version 2.
- 1 20. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the version of the RIP of each 2 network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type.
- 1 21. An apparatus comprising a machine accessible medium containing 2 instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform 3 operations comprising:
- configuring a link including a first network device and a second network device, each network device including a dynamic, intradomain, distributed, flat, single path, distance vector routing protocol having a version and a type, such that the routing

- 7 protocol versions of the first and second network devices are the same and the types of
- 8 the routing protocol versions are the same.
- 1 22. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the routing protocol is Routing
- 2 Information Protocol (RIP).
- 1 23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the version of the RIP is one of
- 2 Version 1 or Version 2.
- 1 24. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the version of the RIP of each
- 2 network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type.
- 1 25. The apparatus of claim 23 further comprising configuring the link such
- 2 that the RIP on both of the first and second network devices is Version 2.
- 1 26. The apparatus of claim 23 further comprising configuring the link such that the RIP Version 2 on both of the first and second network devices is triggered.